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Washington- Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH 6) spoke on the floor of the House of Representatives this morning in support of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act (CHAMP), which will be voted on later this week. The CHIP Program, which insures millions of American children, will expire on September 30 of this year if not reauthorized. The text of Congressman Wilson's floor speech is below.

Mr. Speaker, this week, the House will vote on the CHAMP Act, a bill that reauthorizes the Children's Health Insurance Program, provides millions of new children health care coverage through the program, and protects Medicare for America's seniors.

Passing the CHAMP Act will reauthorize the vital CHIP program, set to expire on September 30. Currently, six million vulnerable American children receive healthcare benefits through CHIP. If CHIP did not exist, these six million children would not have access to quality health care. The CHAMP Act not only ensures that their coverage continues, but it also strengthens it by reaching out and providing health insurance to five million more children who are already eligible for the program.

The CHAMP Act also protects America's seniors. It ensures that they continue to have access to the doctors of their choice by stopping a 10 percent payment cut to doctors, encourages them to seek preventative health benefits by eliminating co-payments and deductibles, and protects low-income seniors by expanding programs to keep Medicare affordable.

Mr. Speaker, in one bill, this House is addressing the health care needs of our children and our seniors.

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